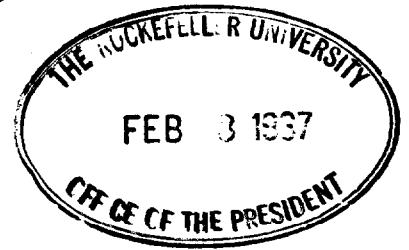


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RUSSELL SAGE FOUNDATION

112 EAST 64TH STREET
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January 30, 1987

Dr. Howard I. Adler
Biology Division
Oak Ridge National Laboratory
P.O. Box Y
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

Dear Dr. Adler,

Many thanks for writing about the piece I did with Joshua Lederberg in Nature. Of course, Sherman and Winge -- and Gowan and Lincoln also -- were important parts of the post maturity story. In fact, our original draft devotes some attention to these two papers and, as you will see from the xeroxes of the pertinent pages from that earlier draft, we had hoped to include an extract from correspondence between Lederberg and C.F. Niven which beautifully describes then prevailing views about experiments on bacterial sex. But Nature was recalcitrant and asked for such deep cuts that we felt that we could not deal with Sherman and Winge properly and that the best we could do was to get their work on the record in the Lederberg paper. In short, you did not misunderstand our paper at all; rather we were not in a position to lay out the case as thoroughly as we would have liked. Just two investigations in all that time pretty much indicates that bacteriologists weren't much interested in bacterial sex. Of course had Lederberg not used K-12, he would not have observed recombination when he did although he has told me that he would certainly have examined other strains had the initial experiments not worked out.

Sincerely,

Harriet Zuckerman
Visiting Scholar 1986-87

cc: Joshua Lederberg